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SWALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1951



COLONEL W. H. CRICHTON,

C.I.E., I.M.S. (Ret).

M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.) D.P.H. (Lond.),

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FRANK HAUXWELL,

M.B., Ch.B. (Glas.), D.P.H. (Camb.),

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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SWALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman — A. L. BAKER, Esq.

Parish	Councillors	
Badlesmere and Leaveland	Morgan-Kirby, D. W.	<i>o</i>
Bapchild ... ...	... Baker, A. L.	<i>ox</i>
Bobbing and Iwade ...	... Phipps, C. R.	<i>o</i>
Borden ... ...	... Hattie, W.	<i>o</i>
Boughton ... ...	... Rook, H.	
Bredgar ... ...	... Coles, E. L.	
Buckland, Norton and Stone ...	... Boucher, R. C.	
Doddington ... ...	... Elvy, F.	<i>o</i>
Dunkirk ... ...	... Ash, T. F.	
Eastling ... ...	... Meeson, A. J.	
Faversham Without ...	...
Goodnestone and Graveney ...	... Vinson, E.	<i>o</i>
Halstow Lower ...	... Bennett, A. J.	<i>x</i>
Hartlip ... ...	... Stevens, W. S.	<i>x</i>
Hernhill ... ...	... Bones, A.	<i>x</i>
Kingsdown, Milsted and Rodmersham ...	... White, W. H.	<i>o</i>
Luddenham ... ...	... Stevens, S.	
Lynsted ... ...	... Pilcher, A. W.	<i>x</i>
Newington ... ...	... Ledger, E. C.	<i>x</i>
Newnham ... ...	... Prentis, J. E.	<i>ox</i>
Oare ... ...	... Harrison, F. E.	
Ospringe ... ...	... Fisher, G. F.	
Selling ... ...	... Gaskain, E. W.	
Sheldwich ... ...	... Milgate, E. T.	
Stalisfield ... ...	... Lintott, P.	
Teynham ... ...	... Moor, D. J.	<i>x</i>
Throwley ... ...	... Haydock-Wilson, H.	<i>o</i>
Tonge ... ...	... Gascoyne G. A. C.	<i>x</i>
Tunstall ... ...	... Bensted, F. H.	
Upchurch ... ...	... Bishop, C. C.	<i>o</i>

o Members of the Health Committee

x Members of the Housing Committee

Clerk of the Council — BRYAN TASSELL, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

Col. W. H. CRICHTON, C.I.E., I.M.S. (Ret.)
M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), D.P.H. (Lond.)

(Temporarily released for duties with the United Nations Forces in
Korea.)

Acting Medical Officer of Health from January, 1951 :

FRANK HAUXWELL, M.B., Ch.B. (Glas.), D.P.H. (Camb.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. R. K. DUNNING, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors :

Mr. C. G. A. RUDD, C.R.S.I.

Mr. J. WILFORD, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H. (left February,
1951)

Mr. R. A. O. BAMPTON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.
(From August, 1951)

Sanitary Assistant :

Mr. D. W. FRENCH

Clerical Staff :

Miss D. MILLS (left September, 1951)

Miss B. R. HODGES (from October, 1951)

Mr. W. G. G. LEWIS (left April, 1951)

Mr. S. B. Brook

Rodent Operators :

Mr. F. Lockwood

Mr. R. S. Power

SWALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

48, Bell Road,
Sittingbourne,
Kent.

The Chairman and Members of the Swale Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Swale Rural District for the year 1951.

Despite the cold wet spring and some increase in incidence of some of the infectious diseases the general health of the area, as judged by the mortality statistics and the health of the school children, remained very satisfactory.

Though the Registrar General's estimated mid-year population showed an increase of 490 over the estimate for the previous year, it was 134 less than the actual count at the time of the Census in April. During the 20 year interval between the 1931 Census and that of 1951, the population of the area had, however, increased from 17,620 persons to 19,714, an increase of 2,094 or 11.9%. Though small, this increase does show that in the Swale area at least movement of population to the towns is not seriously affecting the country districts.

The Birth Rate at 16.34 per 1,000 of the population again reflects the decreasing number of children born each year since the immediate post-war years. The local rate is, however, still slightly higher than for England and Wales as a whole—16.99 for Swale as compared with 15.5 for England and Wales.

The number of deaths during 1951 was 30 less than in the previous year and the death rate at 10.8 per 1,000 of the population is the lowest recorded during the post-war years. Approximately 50% of the deaths that occurred were of people over 70 years of age.

It is also satisfactory to note that the infant mortality continued to decrease and the rate at 15.6 per 1,000 births is the lowest since the end of the war and compares very favourably with that of 29.6 for the whole of England and Wales.

During the year there was some increase in the total number of cases of infectious disease occurring, due mainly to the large number of cases of Whooping Cough in the first quarter of the year. Measles also was very prevalent though the cases were fewer than in the previous year (334 cases in 1951 — 466 in 1950). Though generally both diseases were mild in type, the one death

recorded as due to Whooping Cough is a reminder that these so called minor infections cannot be treated lightly. The small outbreak of Paratyphoid Fever which affected only one family shows how immediate knowledge of the cases and prompt action by the Sanitary Staff can limit the spread of infection.

For general sanitary supervision and food inspection, I am indebted to Mr. R. K. Dunning, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and his staff of Sanitary Inspectors. Unfortunately, from February to August Mr. Dunning had the help of only one District Inspector to cover an area of over 62,000 acres. This naturally limited considerably the amount of supervision possible.

Reports of water and milk supplies can be considered satisfactory, though in the case of a few premises supplied by private wells the question of alternative supplies has had to be considered. In scattered rural districts, however, the provision of piped supplies is not always a practical proposition so that constant supervision of the present well supplies has to be maintained.

During the year concern was felt regarding the overloading of the sewage works at Newington especially as more houses are required in that area. It is to be hoped that proposals for the erection on a fresh site of new works which will ultimately be able to deal also with sewage from adjoining parishes will not be unduly delayed.

In regard to housing the Rural Housing Survey which can now be considered as completed shows that 441 houses (8.7%) in the area are unfit for human habitation and cannot be rendered fit at a reasonable cost. Progress in dealing with these, however, is slow and will unfortunately remain slow until more new houses are made available. It is regrettable that during 1951 only 62 new houses were erected, of which 54 were built by the Council. If any progress is to be made in dealing with these premises which should be condemned, building must be speeded up.

Equally serious is the problem of dealing with houses which at the time of the Survey were classified in Categories 3 and 4, i.e., houses requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement and houses appropriate for reconditioning. With the present high cost of repairs and the restriction on rents it is very difficult to get owners to spend money on this type of property and yet the longer these repairs are left undone the greater the number of these houses that will warrant reclassification into Category 5 (houses unfit for human habitation and cannot be rendered fit at a reasonable cost).

I would take this opportunity of thanking Members of the Council for their help and kindly consideration during the year.

and I am especially indebted to all members of the staff of the Department and to other Officers of the Council for their ever willing assistance and co-operation in carrying out the very varied duties that fall to my lot.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

FRANK HAUXWELL.

SECTION I.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. CLIMATOLOGY

The temperature of the year as a whole was very similar to 1950, but a substantial increase in the total rainfall is shown from the readings taken at the Faversham Borough Sewage Works (32.28 inches in 1951, 25.84 inches in 1950). No less than 9 months of 1951 received greater rainfall than the corresponding months of the previous year, although January, February and March accounted for 5.08 inches of the total 6.44 inches increase.

The maximum and minimum temperatures, together with rainfall recorded each month is given in Appendix A.

2. AREA

62,015 acres (approximately 97 square miles). No change from 1950.

3. POPULATION

The population of the District according to the Registrar-General's estimated mid-year population was 19,580, showing an increase of 490 over the estimate for the preceding year, but 134 less than the actual count of resident population as shown by the Census taken in April, 1951.

A comparison of the Census figures for 1951 with those of the Census of 1931 is shown in the following statement :—

		Males	Females	Total Persons
Census—1931	... ... ...	8,816	8,804	17,620
Census—1951	... ... ...	9,615	10,099	19,714
Censal Increase or Decrease	... ...	+ 799	+ 1,295	+ 2,094
% of 1931 Census	... ...	+ 9.1	+ 14.7	+ 11.9

4. NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

The number of inhabited houses in the District has increased by 60 during the year to a total of 6,228 compared with 6,168 at the end of 1950.

5. RATEABLE VALUE

£76,434 (£74,937).

6. SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE

£312 4s. 5d. compared with £304 14s. 3d. at the end of 1950.

SECTION II VITAL STATISTICS

The crude Birth and Death rates are based on local population. Corrected rates are arrived at by multiplying the local rates by what are known as comparability factors supplied by the Registrar General and this has the effect of adjusting the local rates to rates which would have occurred had the age and sex distribution of the local population been the same as England and Wales as a whole. This enables a truer comparison to be made not only with the rates for England and Wales but with other areas where the crude rate has been similarly adjusted. The effect of this is that though the crude rates are useful indices for showing increases or decreases in Birth or Death rates over a series of years, the corrected rates are those to be taken for comparison either with England and Wales as a whole, or with other areas similarly adjusted.

1. BIRTHS

Since 1947, when a record number of births were registered, the number has decreased each year, this tendency being continued in 1951 when the number fell to 320 as compared with 359 during the previous year.

(i) Live Births		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	.....	158 (168)	148 (179)	306 (347)
Illegitimate	.....	6 (7)	8 (5)	14 (12)
		<u>164 (175)</u>	<u>156 (184)</u>	<u>320 (359)</u>

(ii) Still Births		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	.....	1 (6)	6 (3)	7 (9)
Illegitimate	.....	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)
		<u>1 (6)</u>	<u>7 (3)</u>	<u>8 (9)</u>

Figures in brackets refer to previous year.

(iii) Birth Rate.—The crude birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population fell from 18.8 in 1950 to 16.34 in 1951. This decrease again continues a decrease from the high rates of the immediate post-war years and appears to follow a national trend. The corrected birth rate is, however, higher than that for England and Wales—16.99 compared with 15.5 per thousand for England and Wales as a whole.

(iv) Percentage of Still Births and Illegitimate Rate.—The percentage of stillbirths to total births remains as for 1950 at 2.5% but the illegitimate rate shows an increase from 3.3% in 1950 to 4.4% in 1951. The latter rate is not, however, abnormally high.

(v) Excess of Births over Deaths.—The excess of births over deaths continues to decline; 109 in 1951 compared with 118 in 1950.

(vi) Table 1 shows the number of births and the birth rates each year since 1946.

2. DEATHS

(a) The number of deaths from all causes during the year was 211, being 30 less than in 1950. Of these, 126 were males and 85 females.

(b) The crude death rate per thousand of the population shows a fall from 12.6 in 1950 to 10.8 in 1951, and is the lowest rate recorded for the post-war years. The corrected death rate of 9.15 compares very favourably with that for England and Wales, namely 12.5 per 1,000.

(c) Table 1 shows the number of deaths and the death rates since 1946 and Table 2 shows the causes of death during 1951 classified by the Registrar General under 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death.

TABLE 1
Births and Deaths 1946 - 1951

Year	No. of Births	No. of Deaths	Excess of Births over Deaths	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate
1946	388	219	169	21.9	12.4
1947	439	228	211	24.4	12.7
1948	391	219	172	20.3	11.4
1949	367	227	140	19.3	11.9
1950	359	241	118	18.8	12.6
1951	320	211	109	16.3	10.8

TABLE 2

Causes of Death

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis Respiratory ...	3 (—)	1 (3)	4 (3)
Tuberculosis Other ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Syphilitic disease ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Diphtheria ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Whooping Cough ...	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
Meningo-coccal infections ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Measles ...	— (—)	— (1)	— (1)
Other infective and Parasitic diseases ...	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	3 (2)	1 (4)	4 (6)
Malignant neoplasm, lungs, bronchus ...	3 (4)	1 (1)	4 (5)
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	— (—)	3 (8)	3 (8)
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	— (—)	2 (3)	2 (3)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	11 (10)	6 (8)	17 (18)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Diabetes ...	— (1)	— (—)	— (1)
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	10 (16)	17 (18)	27 (34)
Coronary disease angina ...	15 (13)	8 (7)	23 (20)
Hypertension with heart disease	4 (3)	— (3)	4 (6)
Other heart disease ...	29 (41)	23 (36)	52 (77)
Other circulatory disease ...	10 (3)	1 (3)	11 (6)
Influenza ...	5 (—)	— (—)	5 (—)
Pneumonia ...	10 (4)	3 (1)	13 (5)
Bronchitis ...	3 (9)	5 (3)	8 (12)
Other diseases of the respiratory system ...	— (—)	— (2)	— (2)
Ulcer of stomach ...	— (1)	1 (2)	1 (3)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	— (2)	— (—)	— (2)
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	— (2)	4 (2)	4 (4)
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	2 (4)	— (—)	2 (4)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Congenital malformations ...	1 (—)	— (1)	1 (1)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	10 (9)	8 (4)	18 (13)
Motor vehicle accidents ...	2 (1)	— (—)	2 (1)
All other accidents ...	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (3)
Suicide ...	1 (1)	— (1)	1 (2)
Homicide and operations of war	— (—)	— (1)	— (1)
Totals ...	126(128)	85 (113)	211(241)

From the causes of death given in Table 2 it will be seen that, with the exception of the respiratory diseases, almost all the various diseases claimed less deaths than in the previous year.

One most welcome decrease is that of deaths due to malignant diseases which accounted for 10 less than in 1950. The total,

however, is still greater than in 1949 (26) and 1948 (25) and the percentage of cancer deaths to total deaths remains fairly constant — 14.2% in 1951, 16.6% in 1950, 15.8% in 1949, 11.4% in 1948, 15.4% in 1947 and 14.6% in 1946. The disease remains also the greatest single cause of death.

Influenza and respiratory diseases were responsible for 7 more deaths in 1951 than in 1950, probably due to the cold wet weather at the beginning of the year. An analysis of the available records show that approximately 50% of these deaths occurred in people over 70 years of age and approximately 75% occurred in people over 60 years of age. A further 10% occurred in infants under 1 year old. (See Table 3.)

A total of 117 (or 55.4%) deaths were attributed to Disease of the Heart or Circulatory System. It should be remembered, however, that in many cases these deaths represent the final phase of old standing disease and in a large number are a result of senility.

It is pleasing to be able to record for the second year running that no maternal deaths occurred.

The following statement shows the age and sex distribution of all deaths that occurred during 1951.

	Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75-85	Over 85	Total
Male	3	1	1	1	2	3	12	12	38	37	16	126
Female	2	1	1	-	-	1	9	10	19	23	19	85
	5	2	2	1	2	4	21	22	57	60	35	211

3. INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year old was 5 in 1951, being one less than in 1950. The infant mortality rate for the year was 15.6 per 1,000 births which is well below the rate of 29.6 for England and Wales. The infant mortality rate for the District is the lowest since the end of the war.

The causes of infant deaths are given in Table 3.

TABLE 3
INFANT DEATHS

Cause of Death	Place of Death	Males	Females
1 (a) Broncho Pneumonia ...	Home	2 mths.	—
(b) Acute Otitis Media ...		.
(c) Meningitis ...			
2 (a) Acute Heart Failure ...	Home	2 mths.	—
(b) Broncho Pneumonia ...			
3 (a) Respiratory Failure ...	Hospital	—	10 hrs.
(b) Prematurity (12 weeks) ..			
4 Prematurity	Hospital	—	10 hrs.
5 Broncho Pneumonia ...	Home	2 mths.	—

It will be noted that 3 out of the 5 deaths were due to Broncho Pneumonia and this coincides with a general increase in deaths at all ages from respiratory diseases and could reasonably be attributed to the cold wet spring. It is very satisfactory to note that the death of infants under one week old (2) assignable to prematurity remains very low as increases in the number of such deaths is causing some anxiety to many other Authorities.

Satisfaction may also be expressed in the fact that no deaths during the year occurred from Gastro Enteritis, a highly infectious and often fatal disease of infants under one year of age. This is the fourth year in succession that no deaths have been recorded as due to this disease which is usually associated with bad housing and unhygienic conditions.

SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. The total number of the various Infectious Diseases notified during the year, the number of cases admitted to hospital or sanatorium and the number of deaths attributed to each disease in the Registrar General's classification of deaths is given in Table 4.

TABLE 4

Disease	Cases Notified	Removed to Hospital or Sanatorium	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	25 (77)	23	—
Whooping Cough ...	287 (89)	—	1
Measles ...	334 (466)	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	3 (1)	2	—
Pneumonia ...	11 (18)	—	13
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3 (—)	2	—
Dysentery ...	4 (1)	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	7 (—)	7	—
Food Poisoning ...	— (—)	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Post Infectious) ...	— (1)	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	— (—)	—	—
Smallpox ...	— (—)	—	—
Erysipelas ...	— (4)	—	—
Chicken pox ...	— (—)	—	—
Malaria ...	— (—)	—	—
T.B. Pulmonary ...	12 (7)	9	4
Non-Pulmonary ...	4 (1)	3	—
	690 (665)	46	18

2. Table 5 shows the age groups affected by the diseases notified.

TABLE 5

Age Group Distribution — Infectious Disease

Disease	0-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45	-50	-55	O'er 55	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	6	16	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
Whooping Cough	161	112	7	1	—	1	1	2	—	1	—	1	287
Measles ...	156	163	7	—	2	—	3	—	2	1	—	—	334
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	2	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Dysentery ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Paratyphoid Fever ...	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	7
T.B. Pulmonary	—	—	—	3	1	1	2	1	2	1	—	1	14
Non-Pulmonary	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	4
	328	297	19	6	4	4	9	5	6	4	4	4	690

3. The distribution of the notified diseases in the parishes is shown in Appendix B.

4. It will be seen from Table 4 that there was a slight increase in the total number of infectious diseases notified during the year.

This increase was due mainly to the large number of cases of Whooping Cough which occurred. The outbreak began in the last quarter of 1950 and continued until April of 1951. 226 of the 287 cases notified during the year occurred during the first quarter, mainly in January and February, when the outbreak reached its peak, the number gradually decreasing until the end of April, when only sporadic cases were notified. In spite of this rather heavy incidence, only one death is attributed to the disease by the Registrar General in his classification of causes of death. (See Table 2.)

After the large number of Measles cases during the previous year, the disease was expected to die out in 1951 and the numbers did in fact decrease during the first quarter of the year. However, in the second three months of the year notifications again began to increase and 188 of the year's total of 334 were notified during that period. During the third quarter of the year only 67 notifications were received mainly in July and August, and in the last quarter there were no cases reported. Happily the disease appeared to be mild in character and no deaths were reported.

There was a big reduction in the notifications of Scarlet Fever during 1951 and the 25 cases, again all mild in character, came from scattered parts of the District.

In February two cases of Paratyphoid were notified from a house in Boughton. During investigations into these cases it was found that with the exception of the father all other members (5 in number) of the family were suffering from the disease—some in the convalescent stage and some in the acute stage. All cases were very mild in type. They were removed to the Haine Isolation Hospital, Ramsgate, where all made good recoveries. Despite intensive enquiries no source of infection could be found and no other cases occurred in the district.

Four cases of Dysentery were notified during the year, 3 from the same house in Upchurch and the fourth also from Upchurch. A careful watch was exercised on the contacts and no further cases developed.

Three cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were reported, the first in September, a girl of 10 from Graveney, the second in December, a man of 32 from Borden, and the third also in December, a girl of 19 from Iwade. The cases were unrelated and as far as is known no further cases developed from these sources.

TUBERCULOSIS

5. Twelve new cases of Pulmonary and 4 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year, but this rather heavy increase in incidence over 1950 when only 7 cases of Pulmonary and 1 case of Non-Pulmonary were notified is not reflected in the mortality from the disease which showed an increase of only one death from pulmonary tuberculosis over the 1950 post-war record of 3.

The number of new notifications, deaths, and death rates for Tuberculosis since 1945 are shown in Table 7.

TABLE 7

Number of Tuberculosis cases notified and number of deaths each year from 1945-1951.

Year	No. of primary notifications received		Deaths		Death rate per 10,000 of population	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1945	14	3	10	2	6.03	1.2
1946	12	6	8	1	4.5	0.5
1947	10	3	9	—	5.01	0.0
1948	16	3	4	3	2.08	1.5
1949	11	5	5	3	2.6	1.5
1950	7	1	3	—	1.5	0.0
1951	12	4	4	—	2.04	0.0

Though taken over a comparatively short period (only the 7 post-war years) Table 7 shows the fall in the death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis which has occurred during this period, whereas there has been comparatively little variation in the number of cases notified each year. In other words, though the incidence has varied only slightly the fatality has considerably lessened.

A summary of the position as shown from the Tuberculosis Register is given in Table 8. It will be seen that there was an increase of 12 cases on the Register over the year, giving the highest number since the war. It seems reasonable to attribute some of this increase to improved methods of diagnosis and to the large number of attendances made to the Mobile X-Ray Unit which has been visiting various towns neighbouring this District. A further reason for more cases remaining in the Tuberculosis Register is also to be found in the fact that fewer deaths are occurring and therefore cases remain in the Register for a longer period.

TABLE 8
Summary of Tuberculosis Register.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
No. of cases on Register at 1st. Jan. 1951	43(40)	32(32)	15(14)	11(13)	101(99)
New cases	9(5)	3(2)	1(1)	3(—)	16(8)
Restored to Register...	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)
Transferred to Swale .	6(3)	2(4)	—(—)	—(—)	8(7)
	58(48)	37(38)	16(15)	14(13)	125(114)
Died	3(2)	—(3)	—(—)	1(—)	4(5)
Left Swale	3(2)	1(3)	—(—)	1(—)	5(5)
Recovered	1(—)	—(—)	1(—)	—(2)	2(2)
Cancelled Non-T.B. ...	1(1)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	1(1)
Balance remaining at 31st Dec., 1951 ...	50(43)	36(32)	15(15)	12(11)	113(101)

Figures in brackets refer to preceding year.

5. Immunisation and Vaccination

(i) Diphtheria Immunisation.—From figures supplied by the courtesy of the County Medical Officer it is shown that 256 children under 5 years of age were immunised last year. The total percentage of children in this age group who have now been protected is 54.17% which is slightly less than in 1950 (57.01%). 28 children between 5 and 15 years old were also immunised, giving protection to 32.59% of the total in this age group. Of all children under 15 years of age it is estimated that 41.1% have now received courses of immunisation. This latter figure is lower than 1950, when the percentage immunised was 47.1 and remains much too low to be considered satisfactory. It must be repeated that if the present freedom from diphtheria is to be maintained, parents must take advantage of the immunisation services provided either through their own doctor or through the clinic services.

The number of reinforcing inoculations carried out was 279 which is a decline of 30 over 1950.

(ii) Vaccination.—Also by courtesy of the County Medical Officer it is reported that 233 primary vaccinations and 87 re-vaccinations against smallpox were carried out. These figures show a small increase over 1950 (223 primary vaccinations and 31 re-vaccinations). The possibility of the introduction of this disease from abroad has increased considerably in recent years owing to much shorter travel periods and as the possibility of resulting outbreaks in this country is greatly increased where a large proportion of the population is unprotected, the present day vaccination figures are much too low for safety.

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The duties of general environmental hygiene, supervision of food supplies, water supplies, housing, infectious disease, etc., are carried out by the Council's Health Department and the personal health services, including school health services, care of mothers and young children, health visiting, home nursing, immunisation and vaccination, etc., are carried out by the County Council.

Through the courtesy of the County Medical Officer it is possible, however, to give some extracts from the Annual Report on School Health Services.

(a) Medical Inspections :—

i	Number of children inspected (periodic)	578	(819)
ii	Number of special inspections ...	... 20	(44)
iii	Number of re-inspections ...	... 374	(759)
iv	Number of children found at periodic inspections to require treatment ...	35	(85)
v	Percentage requiring treatment ...	6.1% (10.3%)	

The defects found during these inspections are given in the following table from which it will be seen that orthopædic defects (postural, flat feet, etc.) ear, nose, and throat defects and various eye defects are still the principal reason for pupils requiring treatment.

Defects	Number
Eyes	12
Ears, nose and throat	9
Orthopædic	8
Development	1
Psychological	1
Other	2

(b) General Condition

The classification of the general condition of children inspected was as follows :—

Groups	Number Inspected	Percentages		
		Good	Fair	Poor
Entrants	208(341)	29.3(15.8)	59.6(68.7)	11.1(15.5)
Second Age Group	209(219)	34.4(27.9)	58.5(62.1)	3.1(10.0)
Third Age Group	— (3)	—(33.3)	— (33.3)	—(33.3)
Other periodic ins- pections ...	141(256)	35.5(28.9)	61.7(60.2)	2.8(10.9)
Totals ...	578(819)	34.4(31.2)	59.7(64.1)	5.9(12.7)

From these figures it can be said that generally speaking the health of the school child is good. It will be noted that there was during 1951 a considerable drop in the percentage of children found during periodic inspections to be requiring treatment—from 10.3% in 1950 to 6.1% in 1951. The classification of children according to their general condition also shows improvement during 1951 as compared with the year 1950. Under that classification the percentage classified as good increased from 31.2% in 1950, to 34.4% per cent. in 1951, and the percentage classified as poor fell from 12.7% in 1950 to 5.9% in 1951.

- (c) Dental inspection and treatment figures are as follows :—
 - i Number inspected by County Dental Officers
(periodic and special) 861 (1,076)
 - ii Number found to require treatment ... 506 (514)
 - iii Percentage requiring treatment ... 58.7 (47.7)
 - iv Number actually treated ... 238 (239)
 - v Percentage treated 47 (46.5)
- (d) Infestation with vermin.
 - i Total number of examinations in schools
by the School Nurse or other authorised
persons 5,388 (5,002)
 - ii Total number of children found infested 35 (23)
 - iii Number of children in respect of whom
cleansing notices were issued (Section
54 (2) Education Act, 1944) ... 10 (13)

Note : Figures in brackets refer to the previous year.

SECTION V

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

(i) The district is well served with piped supplies from three authorities. In the western parishes the water is obtained from the Chatham Water Company and distributed partly in their mains and partly in mains belonging to the Swale Rural District Council. With the exception of the parish of Oare and part of Luddenham, which draw their supplies from the Faversham Water Company, the remaining parishes are covered by the Mid Kent Water Company.

(ii) A further eleven houses (five in the parish of Dunkirk, four in Borden and two in the parish of Rodmersham) were connected to piped supplies during the year. The present position is that 94.8% of the houses in the district have an internal water supply, 3.2% stand pipes and 2.0% rely on wells or carted supplies.

(iii) Samples of piped water were taken regularly and all 12 submitted for examination were reported as being "Good water." In addition, 10 samples from wells and tanks were also submitted for examination with the result that six were reported as being satisfactory but four showed evidence of pollution. Of these four samples one was taken from a tank supplying a hop pickers' camp, but little action could be taken before the camp was vacated. Arrangements were made, however, for the tank to be cleansed thoroughly before use the following season. In regard to the three samples from wells the owner of two cottages supplied by one of the wells is getting estimates and trying to make arrangements for connecting the property to the main supply.

In the second case the well had not been used for some years and the owner is continuing to cart water until arrangements can be made with owners of adjoining land for the laying of a piped supply. In the last case some pollution by an adjoining cesspool was suspected and this was borne out by the analysis. The well was closed and as no main supply is near, water for domestic purposes is carted.

2.—Drainage and Sewerage

No work of this description, other than for new Council houses was carried out during the year. The parishes which have a sewerage system are Boughton, Lynsted, Teynham, Iwade and Newington, all the remainder of the district being served by cesspools or septic tanks.

Towards the end of the year some concern was felt regarding the overloading of the sewage works at Newington, particularly

in connection with the need for more houses in this area. Accordingly the Engineer and Surveyor was asked to prepare a scheme for enlarging the works or constructing new works on a fresh site and also to investigate the possibility of sewerage adjoining parishes.

3.—Scavenging and Cesspool Emptying

Supervision of this service is undertaken by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor. Difficulty was experienced in maintaining an adequate service for the emptying of cesspools, etc., during the year owing to breakdown of emptying plant and the additional work entailed in dealing with works for Drakes Close, Upchurch. An additional emptier was hired and this soon reduced the number outstanding to reasonable proportions.

4.—Rodent Control

A summary of the work done by the Rodent Operators is given in the following table. The more intensive survey resulting from the employment of two full-time operators did not reveal any increase in the number of infestations found, and this together with the fact that the treatment of agricultural lands by the Council was getting too expensive for the farmer to accept, led the Council at their meeting in January, 1952, to dispense with one operator.

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	5	6168	960	334	7467
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise ...	(a) Nil (b) 5	56 3112	5 255	8 192	69 3564
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats... ...	Major 3 Inf'st'tns. Minor 2 Inf'st'tns.	6 143	22 4	2 5	33 154
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice	—	37	—	—	37
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	5	186	25	7	223

5.—Disinfection and Disinfestation

(i) Disinfection is carried out as necessary following the removal of cases of infectious disease to hospital and in the case of Tuberculosis following vacation of the premises by the patient or when the patient dies at home. During the year 51 rooms were disinfected and 103 visits were made in connection with infectious disease.

(ii) Disinfestation. Once again there was very little supervision necessary for the treatment of vermin in this area. Advice was given to the tenants on the most satisfactory form of treatment in the six cases reported.

6.—Inspection of District

A table is set out in Appendix C showing the inspections made during the year and Appendix D shows the number of Notices served during the year and the work completed as a result of action taken. There was necessarily a reduction in the number of visits and inspections carried out in 1951 as one of the District Sanitary Inspectors left in February and a replacement was not obtained until August.

SECTION VI

FOOD AND FOOD INSPECTION

Food Supplies

A good deal of attention is given to the preparation and handling of food as well as to the suitability of the premises and for this purpose regular inspections are made to enforce compliance with the Food and Drugs Act and the Byelaws made under that Act. On the recommendation of the Ministry of Food, notices requesting customers not to take dogs into food shops were ordered but unfortunately had not arrived in time for distribution before the end of the year.

A list of foodstuff found on inspection to be unfit for human consumption is given in Appendix E.

(i) Milk

Very little change has taken place in the registrations made and the licences issued by the Council. The position at the end of December, 1951, was as follows :—

Registered distributors of milk	...	16	(13)
Registered dairies other than farms	...	4	(4)

Included in the above the following hold special licences under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949.

Dealers' Licences.

To use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	3	(3)
" Pasteurised "	... 3	(3)
" Sterilised "	... 3	(2)

Supplementary Licences

To use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested "	6	(7)
" Pasteurised "	... 5	(5)
" Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised "	1	(—)
" Sterilised "	... 2	(2)

The 1949 Milk and Dairy Regulations transferred the onus of supervision of the Milk production on farms from the Local Authority to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The supervision of the milk as distributed to the consumers remains, however, with the Local Authority and at the end of 1951 the Council decided to purchase the necessary outfits for collection from retailers in the area, of samples for bacteriological examination. This scheme of supervision could not, however, be put into operation until the following year.

During the year three samples of milk were taken on behalf of the Medical Research Council in connection with their investigations into the methods of spread of "Q" fever. This disease, of which several cases have appeared in Kent in recent years, is characterised by "pneumonic" symptoms and is believed to originate from cattle and to be spread either by milk or farmyard dust.

(ii) Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the Swale area but 50 premises are registered with the Council for the sale of ice cream. These premises were visited regularly to check conditions and temperatures of storage. During the year 12 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and although the number of samples submitted was considerably less than in the previous year, there was, as will be seen in the following statement, a marked improvement in the grading, practically all reaching the Grade I standard.

	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
1950	14 (37%)	1 (2.6%)	18 (47.4)%	5 (13%)	38
1951	11 (91.77)	1 (8.3%)	—	—	—

(iii) Meat

There are no slaughter houses in use in the Swale District so inspection of meat is confined to that on sale in the butchers' shops. Conditions in the shops were found to be good and the butchers co-operate well with the Sanitary Department in reporting any suspicious meat in their premises.

(iv) Fish Frying

There are only two premises in use and these have been found quite satisfactory at times of routine inspections.

(v) Bakehouses

The number of bakehouses in the area remain at 3 and during the year 10 visits were made to them. The premises are well maintained.

(vi) Food and Drugs Act

The following details have been supplied by the Weights and Measures Department of the County Council showing the sampling work carried out by them in this area in regard to the genuineness of the various articles of food and drugs sold in the area.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Details of samples taken by the County Sampling Officer within the Swale Rural District during the year ended 31st December, 1951.

Article	No.	Article	No.
Almond Flavouring	1	Bt. for.	25
Apricot Chutney	1	Jam	1
Apricots	1	Juniper Backache Pills	1
Aspirin Tablets	1	Liver Salt	1
Benedict's Solution	1	Luncheon Meat	1
Borax and Honey	1	Marmalade	1
Butter	1	Marshmallow Creme ...	1
Cheese	1	Milk	31
Cheese Spread	1	Milo Tonic Food	1
Chop Sauce	1	Mincemeat	2
Cooking Fat	1	Oil of Peppermint	1
Cough Pastilles	1	Orange Curd	1
Cream Soda	1	Phensic	1
Crushed Pineapple	1	Scott's Baby Cereal	1
Daisy Powders	1	Table Jelly	1
Dessert Powders	1	Table Salt	1
Digestive Mixture	1	Tea	1
Dressed Salmon	1	Tomato Ketchup	1
Friars Balsam	1	Tomato Soup	1
Gin	3	Vapour Liniment	1
Glycerine	1	Vita-Cup	1
Health Salt	1	Yeast Tablets	1
Ice Cream	1		
Total	25		
		Total	77

SUMMARY

Milk	...	...	...	...	31
Drugs	...	...	...	...	15
Spirits	...	...	...	...	3
Other samples	...	...	...	...	28
					—
					77
					—

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following :—

Sample of Analysis		Action Taken
Milk	Adulterated. 25.3% deficient in fat.	Milk from two cows "Natural" deficiency. Further sample satisfactory.
Spread Cheese	Inferior. Fat 16.9%, Moisture 64.5%	Reported to the Ministry of Food.

SECTION VII

HOUSING

The Rural Housing Survey is now completed except for re-classifications necessary from time to time on account of alterations and improvements. A total of 5,026 houses have now been inspected and classified in accordance with the following categories :

Category 1 (Houses fit in all respects) ...	1,399	(28 %)
Category 2 (Houses with minor defects)	407	(8.1 %)
Category 3 (Houses requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement)...	1,606	(31.9 %)
Category 4 (Houses appropriate for re-conditioning)	1,173	(23.3 %)
Category 5 (Houses unfit for human habitation and unfit for repair at reasonable expense)	441	(8.7 %)
	Total	5,026

Grave concern is felt over the number of houses in categories 3 and 4, as the longer these major repairs and reconditionings are left undone the greater the number will be that will warrant reclassification into Category 5. The costs of repairs compared with the income from rents still make it very difficult to get repairs or improvements carried out.

Details of the notices served during the year and a schedule of repairs which were carried out as a result of those notices are given in Appendix D.

Individual Unfit Houses

Action started in 1950 in respect of the following two properties was continued in 1951 with the result stated :—

Homestead, Key Street Hill, Bobbing—Demolished.
5, High Street, Newington—Premises reconditioned.

Official representations were made during 1951 in respect of the following properties with the results stated :—

Cottage at School Lane and The Street, Boughton—
Undertaking given not to re-let.

6, Elm Cottages, Lower Halstow—Closing Order

New Houses

The number of new houses built in the area during 1951 was 62—less than half those erected in 1950. This decrease was probably caused to a large extent by the death of the Council's Engineer and Surveyor early in the year.

The following table shows the number of houses built each year since 1947.

Year	Private Enterprise	Local Authority		Total
		Permanent	Temporary	
1947	21	59	27	107
1948	31	119	16	166
1949	29	153	—	182
1950	22	111	—	133
1951	8	54	—	62
		111	496	650

Hop Pickers' Camp

The improvements in the huts and conditions referred to last year is being maintained and during 1951 efforts were continued to get all the floors concreted, and as many huts as possible fitted with glass windows. During the year 240 visits were made to the 37 camps which house some 7,500 pickers.

SECTION VIII SHOPS AND FACTORIES

1. Shops Act

All duties under the Shops Act rest with the local authority as the County Council have delegated their responsibility to the District Council. Most of the shops in the area are small family businesses and the enforcement of the requirements of the Shops Act does not present great difficulty.

During the year 414 visits were made to shops in the area and arising from these visits it was noted that one shop was without washing facilities, and in another a notice required by the Shops Act was not exhibited. These matters were put right after informal notices had been served.

2. Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities. ..	48	8	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .	73	50	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	13	8	—	—
Total ...	134	66.	—	—

APPENDIX A

Readings recorded at the Faversham Borough Sewage Works
 (By courtesy of Mr. Colin Walton)

Month	Rainfall	Maximum	Minimum
January ...	2.83 ins. (1.80)	51 (53)	25 (18)
February ...	5.77 .. (3.83)	56 (57)	28 (26)
March ...	2.61 .. (.50)	59 (63)	25 (24)
April ...	1.75 .. (1.93)	66 (65)	30 (30)
May ...	2.38 .. (1.88)	76 (79)	39 (38)
June ...	1.74 .. (1.46)	80 (86)	40 (46)
July ...	1.49 .. (2.61)	88 (86)	46 (45)
August ...	2.74 .. (2.69)	81 (85)	46 (47)
September .	3.81 .. (1.86)	75 (78)	38 (43)
October ...	1.12 .. (.31)	62 (67)	30 (28)
November .	3.63 .. (4.93)	58 (57)	29 (28)
December .	2.41 .. (2.04)	53 (52)	20 (20)
Total Rainfall 32.28 inches (25.84)			

Note :—Figures in brackets refer to the previous year.

APPENDIX B

DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE BY PARISHES

APPENDIX C
**RECORD OF INSPECTIONS BY THE SANITARY
INSPECTORS**

					Totals
HOUSING					
Rural Housing Survey	...	...	...	...	329
Visits under Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	15
Re-visits under Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	28
Council House Applications	...	...	...	...	222
Council House Tenancies	...	...	...	...	50
PUBLIC HEALTH					
Complaints re Houses	...	...	...	...	351
Other Complaints	...	...	...	...	42
Re-visits (Houses)	...	...	...	...	998
Other Re-visits	...	...	...	...	25
Miscellaneous Visits under P.H.A.	...	...	...	...	173
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	103
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	38
Hop Pickers' Camps	...	...	...	...	240
Schools	...	...	...	...	11
Visits re Vermin	...	...	...	...	6
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND SHOPS					
Food Premises :—					
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	10
Grocery and General	...	...	...	...	139
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	101
Inns	...	...	...	...	61
Butchers	...	...	...	...	46
Fried and Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	6
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	30
Dairies	...	...	...	...	14
Shops (Non-food)	...	...	...	...	17
FACTORIES					
With Power	...	...	...	...	50
Non-Power	...	...	...	...	8
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	8
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	1
GENERAL					
Interviews	...	...	...	...	399
Rat Destruction	...	...	...	...	139
Building Licences	...	...	...	...	63
Visits with the M.O.H.	...	...	...	...	28
Visits with the D.S.I.	...	...	...	...	11
Re Alterations and Extensions	...	...	...	...	9

WORK DONE BY INSPECTOR

							Totals
Samples for Analysis :							
Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
General :							
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	51

APPENDIX D

NOTICES SERVED

	Public Health Act, 1936	Housing Act, 1936	Food and Drugs Act 1938	Shops Act, 1934	Factories Act, 1937
Preliminary Notices served	219	—	3	2	—
Preliminary Notices complied with	160	1	3	2	—
Statutory Notices served	3	—	—	—	—
Statutory Notices complied with	9	—	—	—	—

WORK COMPLETED AS RESULT OF ACTION TAKEN HOUSING, DEFECTS REMEDIED

External :

Roofs and flashings	.....	...	...	...	...	82
Chimney and flues	...	...	...	...	...	35
Eaves Gutters	...	...	...	...	...	46
R.W. Downpipes	...	...	...	...	...	19
Walls (brickwork, pointing, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	36
Paving, steps, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drainage systems provided	...	...	...	...	...	8
Drainage repaired/cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	27
Dustbins renewed/provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Conversions—pails to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	3

Internal :

Walls	...	...	...	...	...	36
Ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	26
Floors	...	...	...	...	...	21
Windows	...	...	...	...	...	26

					Totals
Doors	...	...	...	...	20
Ranges, etc., repaired/renewed	...	...	...	...	18
Sinks provided/renewed	...	...	...	...	12
Sink wastes renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Coppers repaired/renewed	...	...	...	...	8
Stairs repaired/improved	...	...	...	...	2
Foodstores ventilated/provided	...	...	...	...	1
Dampness otherwise abated	...	...	...	...	15
Water supply provided	...	...	...	...	6
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	16
Privies repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Verminous houses freed from vermin	...	...	...	...	1
Other repairs to houses	...	...	...	...	10
Entries in Rent Books	...	...	...	...	1

FOOD PREMISES AND SHOPS

Walls, ceilings, floors, windows, doors repaired	...	...	2
Walls, ceilings, floors, windows, doors cleansed	...	...	4
Cleanliness improved	...	...	1
Hot-water supplies provided	...	...	1
Washing facilities provided	...	...	1
Notices exhibited	...	...	1
Conveniences and washing facilities (packing shed)	...	...	1

APPENDIX E

Food found to be unfit for human consumption

6 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. English Mutton	...	...	Heated
39 lbs. English Beef	...	...	Decomposition
165 lbs. Tinned Ham	...	...	Decomposition
16 lbs. Bacon	...	...	Bone Taint
4 lbs. Tinned Chicken	...	...	Decomposition
7 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Corned Beef	...	...	Decomposition
14 ozs. Luncheon Meat	...	...	Decomposition
2 tins Condensed Milk	...	...	Decomposition
11 $\frac{1}{4}$ doz. Danish Eggs	...	...	Decomposition
16 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Danish Pastry Mix	...	...	Rancidity

